

Approved Minutes

HEITC

Higher Education Information Technology Committee

Sub-Committee of ICTL

Idaho Council for Technology in Learning

650 West State Street, Room B 2

Boise, ID

January 30, 2003

Attendance

Committee Members and Guests:

Randy Bow

Christine Brady – not present

Gens Johnson – not present

Ann Joslin, HEITC Chair

Terry Lay

Dave O'Neill – not present

Monti Pittman

Nancy Szofran

Carmen Rahm

Glenn Wilde

David Breithaupt

Joe Roche

Jennifer Fisher

Art Brown – guest speaker

Ron Seiler – guest speaker

Rich Mincer

Dan Hawkins

Dawn Wilson

Gretchen Rader

The Higher Education Information Technology Committee meeting began at 9:10 am. HEITC Chair, Ann Joslin asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

Minutes

Motion 1: Nancy Szofran moved to accept the minutes and the motion was seconded by Glenn Wilde. A vote was taken and passed.

Higher Education and Section 508 Compliance

Ron Seiler, Program Manager of the Center on Disabilities and Human Development at the University of Idaho in Moscow, gave a presentation to the committee on the role of section 508 compliance in higher education. Topics covered by Ron included defining assistive technology and presenting the legal

issues and resources associated with assistive technology. Ron also mentioned the New Freedom Initiative approved by President George Bush for disabilities.

Assistive technology was defined by Ron as any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998 requires that when federal departments and agencies procure, develop, maintain, or use electronic and information technology, subject to commercial availability, they must ensure it complies with the standards developed by the Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board), unless doing so would pose an undue burden on the federal department or agency. This applies to all federal departments and agencies. Section 101 (e)(3) of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 requires States receiving AT Act funds to also comply with Section 508 and the standards. Idaho has received AT Act funds since 1992 and formally agreed to comply with Section 508 in 1997.

Section 508 applies to higher education since institutions are required to have accessible web pages, instructional software, telecommunications and office equipment. It is important to know that enforcement of Section 508 began on June 21, 2001. Technology purchased after this date must comply with the section guidelines and any person with a disability can file a civil complaint after this date as well.

The Idaho ADA Task Force has been established to assist Idaho citizens and organizations in accurately and effectively implementing the ADA. The Northwest ADA/IT Center is also available to assist with disability information in addition to Ron's office, Center on Disabilities and Human Development, at the University of Idaho.

IBM Global Networks/Ceristar Update

Art Brown, from Ceristar, gave the committee an update on the Ed.Net feasibility study. The feasibility study should be complete in mid to late February. Art Brown stated that Phase I needs to be confined to the "backbone" in order to come to end and move to Phase II. In Phase II, other agencies, schools, and libraries will be included.

Members mentioned many concerns that centered around cost. For instance, the cost to each organization to use the new system and the cost of any new equipment if any required to access the new system. A meeting with all seven higher education institutions along with IBM/Ceristar was suggested to address these concerns.

State Technology Plan Update

Dawn Wilson presented copies of the State Technology Plan in draft form created by the State Technology Plan Task Force on January 22nd and 23rd. About thirty stakeholders statewide developed a mission and vision statement along with six goals for the plan. The group will be meeting again on March 13th and 14th to finalize their previous work and continue with the objectives and strategies for success. Dawn requested the presence of members of the HEITC committee to offer their perspectives.

Nancy suggested that a contract should be established with Sheryl Bishop, an independent consultant, to examine the HEITC and K-12 strategic plans to find commonalities in order to establish a K-Life plan.

Ann suggested the Task Force keep in mind learning outside of the classroom, such as libraries, in the language.

SETDA/ISIMS Update

Rich Mincer gave an update on SETDA from the conference he recently attended in Arizona. He also displayed the ISIMS Power point presentation created by Wayne Rush from the Albertson Foundation.

Courier Service

Ann gave an update on library issues to the committee. At present there is still no statewide courier service. The LiLI databases have expanded with new contracts. This has created a much stronger K-12 foundation for the database.

Strategic Plan

Nancy presented her report on technology statistics and information in higher education. This information demonstrates how Idaho provides support of research and instruction for students, faculty, and staff in colleges and universities. She asked members to view the statistics for their institution or agency and report back to her. The committee discussed how many elements in this report can be counted towards the performance measures stated in the strategic plan.

The committee also discussed how the information is obtained and how they can improve the process and reporting. This subject will be discussed at a later date.

Business Plan

Glenn Wilde reviewed the updated business plan for the statewide high performance network dated December 2002. Members discussed the revisions and suggested other changes in wording and language to further develop an extensive scope. Glenn will make these new changes and the committee will be provided with another revised copy.

Discussion

Nancy asked the HEITC members to think about their interests and concerns for the committee and bring these to the next meeting. These elements are what drives the committee.

Carmen commented on the benefit of hearing the guest speaker from the University of Idaho and that the committee should consider having a guest speaker at each meeting from alternating colleges, universities and agencies in order to stay informed statewide.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting will be determined once the IBM Global Networks/Ceristar feasibility study is complete in February. A date in March is being considered.

The chair, Ann Joslin, adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm.